		Case 2:19-cv-00129-1 OR ECF No. 1-3 filed 0	4/17/19 PageID.9 Page 1 0f 21
	18 N 1011	Washington State Office of the Attorney General Asknowledged Receipt, this 18 day	COPY Original Filed
··	1	of Mayon	FE3 % 8 2019
	2	in Spokaul Washington. Signs ure: @MMD.VA	
		Frint Name: EWITH Fater	Timothy W. Fitzgerald SPOKANE COUNTY CLERK
	3	Assistant Attorney General	
	4		
	5	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE S	STATE OF WASHINGTON
	6	IN AND FOR THE COUNT	Y OF SPOKANE
	7		
	8		
		MELISSA PAUL, a single woman,)
•	9	·	
	10	Plaintiff	No. 19200 985-32
	11	VS.	
	12		COMPLAINT FOR
	13	STATE OF WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON STATE PATROL,	DAMAGES
		TROOPER JOSEPH LEIBRECHT,	
	14	individually, TROOPER JOSEPH)	
	15	LEIBRECHT and JANE DOE LEIBRECHT,) and the marital community)	
-	16	composed thereof, TROOPER ROBERT)	
1	17	SPENCER, individually, TROOPER)	
	ļ	ROBERT SPENCER and JANE DOE SPENCER, and the marital community)	
ا	18	composed thereof, SGT. SCOTT DAVIS,	
1	9	individually, SGT. SCOTT DAVIS and JANE)	
2	20	DOE DAVIS, and the marital community)	
2	21	thereof, and DOES 1-10,	
9	2	Defendants.)	
		COMES NOW! the Plaintiff Meliage Paul 1	ary and through har attarn ary Maris T
. 2	3	COMES NOW the Plaintiff, Melissa Paul, b	by and inrough her allorneys Mark J.
2	4	Harris and William C. Maxey of Maxey Law Offi	ices, PLLC, and Breean L. Beggs of
2	5	Paukert & Troppmann, PLLC, and complains and	alleges as follows:
2	6	Tauxon & Troppmann, Felic, and complains and	aneges as tonows.
	-	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES - 1	MAXEY LAW OFFICES, PLLC 1835 West Broadway Avenue Spokane, WA 99201 509-326-0338 Fax: 509-325-4490

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PARTIES

- 1. At all times material to this cause of action, Plaintiff Melissa Paul was a resident of the State of Washington, County of Spokane.
- 2. At all times material to this cause of action, Defendant State of Washington is and was a governmental agency with direction and control of the Washington State Patrol.
- 3. At all times material hereto, Defendant Joseph (Joe) Leibrecht was an agent and employee of the State, who, at the time of the events complained of herein, was acting within the course and scope of his employment by the State, and under color of state law. Defendant Joseph Leibrecht is named in his individual and representative capacity.
- 4. That on information and belief, at all times material hereto, the defendants, Joseph (Joe) Leibrecht and Jane Doe Leibrecht, are husband and wife, and comprise a marital community under the laws of the State of Washington. All acts performed hereinafter described were performed on behalf of said community, as well as each individual.
- 5. At all times material hereto, Defendant Robert Spencer was an agent and employee of the State, who, at the time of the events complained of herein, was acting within the course and scope of his employment by the State, and under color of state law. Defendant Robert Spencer is named in his individual and representative capacity.

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- 6. That on information and belief, at all times material hereto, the defendants, Robert Spencer and Jane Doe Spencer, are husband and wife, and comprise a marital community under the laws of the State of Washington. All acts performed hereinafter described were performed on behalf of said community, as well as each individual.
- 7. At all times material hereto, Defendant Sgt. Scott Davis was an agent and employee of the State, who, at the time of the events complained of herein, was acting within the course and scope of his employment by the State, and under color of state law. On belief, Defendant Davis was a supervising officer of Defendants Leibrecht and Spencer. Defendant Davis is named in his individual and representative capacity.
- 8. That on information and belief, at all times material hereto, the defendants, Scott Davis and Jane Doe Davis, are husband and wife, and comprise a marital community under the laws of the State of Washington. All acts performed hereinafter described were performed on behalf of said community, as well as each individual.
- 9. At all times material to this cause of action, upon information and belief,
 Defendant Does 1-10 engaged in negligent or tortious conduct or otherwise
 wrongful conduct and thereby harmed Plaintiff. Plaintiff prays leave to amend
 this complaint once their identities become known.

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1	wearing dark blue jeans and a dark jacket. Plaintiff did not see Mr. Olds and
2	struck him. Unfortunately, Mr. Olds died.
3	18. The forensic toxicology results of Mr. Olds showed: Methamphetamine: 2.2
· 4	mg/L. Amphetamine: 0.22 mg/L.
5	
6	19. This methamphetamine level is extremely high and associated with adverse
7	effects and irrational behaviors and/or actions.
<u>8</u> 9	20. At approximately 4:40 am, Washington State Patrol (WSP) Trooper Joe
10	Leibrecht arrived on the scene and contacted Plaintiff. Trooper Leibrecht
11-	thought that he might have smelled alcohol in the vehicle but is not sure where
12	it was coming from. Plaintiff's passenger, Mr. Goodwin, advised the trooper
. 13	
14	that he had been drinking and that Plaintiff was his designated driver.
15	21. Between approximately 4:54 a.m. and 5:01 a.m., Plaintiff agreed to and Trooper
16	Leibrecht performed the standardized field sobriety tests (FST) including
17	Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN), Walk and Turn, One Leg Stand, and a test
18	where Claimant was asked to estimate the passage of 30 seconds.
19	
20	22. Trooper Leibrecht reported the following: "nothing on FST's"; No HGN; 28/30
21	seconds time perception; "I do not see impairment"; "No obvious signs of
22	impairment was observed"; Performed FST's satisfactorily on packed snow/ice
23	roadway area.
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25	23. The encounter between WSP troopers and Plaintiff was captured by law
26	enforcement dash cam video. At approximately 5:03 a.m., two troopers are
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heard on video having a discussion about impairment. One says that he does not see any impairment, that he thought he smelled alcohol, but does not think it was Plaintiff. The troopers decided that based on the lack of impairment, that a Portable Breath Test (PBT) would not be administered.

- 24. Trooper Spencer got into the patrol car with Plaintiff to see if he could smell alcohol and did not. At approximately 5:07 a.m., Trooper Leibrecht made a phone call and can be heard saying that Plaintiff was not impaired, the FST's were satisfactory so he was not going to proceed further.
- 25. At approximately 6 a.m. Sgt. Davis arrived at Plaintiff's location and instructed Trooper Spencer to perform FST's on Plaintiff again. Plaintiff agreed. Trooper Spencer administered the tests with no nystagmus or signs of impairment.
- 26. As can be heard in the video, the troopers again discussed the issue of impairment following the second FST's. Statements by the troopers include the same or similar to those that follow can be heard from the officers in the video: "There was no HGN;" "She nailed the walk and turn;" "I don't know how I am going to get a warrant;" "I don't know how we will get probable cause."
- 27. After Plaintiff successfully and satisfactorily completed the FST's for the second time, Trooper Spencer approached her with a Portable Breath Test (PBT) and instructed her to blow. The PBT was .067, which is below the legal limit of alcohol influence in Washington.

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- 32. The evidence from the video refutes a number of statements contained in and omitted from the affidavit for the blood warrant:
 - a. The warrant affidavit falsely indicates/implies Claimant made errors on the Walk and Turn and the One Leg Stand being performed at the direction of

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showing signs of impairment. The video also contradicts what is said in the

affidavit regarding Plaintiff's FST performances.

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- f. The troopers further did not tell the Judge in the affidavit for the blood warrant of the improper administration of the PBT.
- 33. Similar contradictions and falsehoods are contained in and omitted from the Probable Cause Affidavit signed by Trooper Spencer, which was used to charge Plaintiff with crimes.
- 34. Upon belief, the administration of the PBT and the false and/or misleading facts provided in the affidavit were made to get judicial permission for the troopers to investigate their incorrect 'hunch' that Plaintiff was impaired given the gravity of the accident which resulted in death.
- 35. Upon belief, the troopers, including, without limitation, Defendants Leibrecht, Spencer, and Davis, as reflected in the conversations heard on the video and discussed herein above, entered into a conspiracy, thereby agreeing to prosecute Plaintiff, even though they lacked probable cause for same, and even though it was obvious to them that Plaintiff was not legally impaired.
- 36. Upon belief, the troopers, including, without limitation, Defendants Leibrecht, Spencer, and Davis, as reflected in the conversations heard on the video and discussed herein above, entered into a conspiracy to prosecute Plaintiff by knowingly or recklessly swearing to a factually false and/or misleading affidavit of probable cause to obtain a blood warrant, and by further agreeing to submit the probable cause affidavit used to charge Plaintiff.

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- 39. Superior Court Judges Annette Plese and Judge James Triplet thereafter signed orders dismissing the criminal case against Plaintiff with prejudice.
- 40. Plaintiff spent approximately three (3) months in jail solely on the charges arising from the false and misleading affidavit prior to the order of dismissal.

CAUSES OF ACTION UNDER 42 USE SECTION 1983

Unlawful Seizure/ False Arrest Under the Fourth Amendment:

- 41. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.
- 42. The conduct of Defendants Leibrecht, Spencer, and Davis, either individually or acting in concert, constituted an unlawful seizure and arrest of Plaintiff within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- 43. The seizure was unreasonable and without probable cause in that the facts and circumstances available to the Defendants would not warrant a prudent officer in believing that Plaintiff was legally impaired and/or had committed a crime.
- 44. The seizure was unreasonable and without probable cause in that the Defendants administered the PBT unlawfully and without probable cause.
- 45. The arrest and seizure of Plaintiff was unlawful because it lacked probable cause.
- 46. As a proximate cause of the unlawful seizure and arrest affected upon Plaintiff, the Plaintiff suffered injuries and damages as stated hereinafter.

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1	False Imprisonment Violation Under the Fourth Amendment:
2	47. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference as though fully
3	set forth.
. 5	48. Defendants Leibrecht, Spencer, and Davis either individually, or acting in
6	concert, subjected Plaintiff to false imprisonment in violation of her Fourth
7	Amendment rights.
9	49. Defendants deliberately, knowingly, and/or recklessly sought a warrant based
10	on misleading information and deliberately arrested, and thereafter deliberately
	further detained Plaintiff in custody.
12	50. Said detention was unlawful because it lacked probable cause.
13	51. As a proximate cause of the unlawful imprisonment affected upon Plaintiff, the
14	Plaintiff suffered injuries and damages as stated hereinafter.
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16	Malicious Prosecution Violation Under the Fourth Amendment:
17	52. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference as though fully
18	set forth.
19	53. Plaintiff was falsely charged of vehicular homicide under Washington law by
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21	the acts and the knowingly or reckless preparation false/misleading affidavit
22	filings of Defendants Leibrecht, Spencer, and Davis, either individually, or
23	acting in concert.
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	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES 12 MAYEVIAW OFFICES BLT C

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- 55. The Defendants, acting in concert, violated Plaintiff's Fourth Amendment rights by wrongfully initiating the prosecution of Plaintiff for the above-referenced crime(s). The Defendants lacked probable cause to initiate said criminal action against Plaintiff.
- 56. Defendants' conduct resulted in the arrest and prosecution of Plaintiff without probable cause.

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- the WAC. Defendant Davis directed his subordinate(s) to act in violation of
- 65. Defendant Davis directed Defendant Spencer to apply for a blood warrant notwithstanding the non-impairment discussions with the troopers, Plaintiff's favorable FST's, and the unlawful PBT. Defendant Davis directed his subordinate(s) to act in violation of Plaintiff's constitutional rights.
- 66. Defendant Davis knew that the affidavit(s) submitted by his subordinate(s) contained knowing or reckless false and/or misleading statements used to procure a warrant from the judge. Defendant Davis knew of his subordinate(s) unlawful action; and/or consented, agreed, or acquiesced to the constitutional
- 67. Defendant Davis knew his subordinate(s) was/were engaged in violation of Plaintiff's constitutional rights and was deliberately indifferent to his
- 68. As a proximate cause of Defendant Davis' conduct, Plaintiff sustained injuries and damages discussed hereinafter.

Civil Conspiracy Against Defendants Davis, Leibrecht and Spencer:

69. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference as though fully

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94. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was owed several duties of care by Defendants, and each of them, including, but not by way of limitation, those duties include one or more of the following:

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1- -	DATED this 28 th day of February, 2019.
2	PAUKERT & TROPPMANN, PLLC
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4	////
5 .	BREEAN L. BEGGS, WSBA #20795
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7	MAXEY LAW OFFICES, P.S.
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10	WILLIAM C. MAXEY, WSBA #6232 MARK J. HARRIS, WSBA #31720
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